



City of Miami Springs, Florida

The Miami Springs City Council held a **REGULAR MEETING** in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, April 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following were present:

Mayor Billy Bain
Vice Mayor Xavier Garcia
Councilman Bob Best
Councilman Paul C. Dotson
Councilman Rob Youngs

Also Present:

City Manager James R. Borgmann
Assistant City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
Chief of Police H. Randall Dilling
Finance Director Leacroft E. Robinson
Public Works Director Robert T. Williams
Human Resources Director Loretta M. Boucher
City Planner Richard E. Ventura
Deputy City Clerk Suzanne S. Hitaffer

2. Invocation: Vice Mayor Garcia offered the invocation.

Salute to the Flag: The audience participated.

3. Awards & Presentations:

None.

4. Open Forum:

No speakers.

5. Approval of Council Minutes:

5A) 03/24/2008 – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the March 24, 2008 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

Councilman Best moved the item. Vice Mayor Garcia seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

6A) 03/18/2008 – Education Advisory Board – Minutes

Minutes of the March 18, 2008 Education Advisory Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6B) 03/20/2008 – Historic Preservation Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the March 20, 2008 Historic Preservation Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6C) 03/27/2008 – Code Review Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the March 27, 2008 Code Review Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6D) 04/01/2008 – Code Enforcement Board – Minutes

Minutes of the April 1, 2008 Code Enforcement Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6E) 04/02/2008 – Architectural Review Board – Minutes

Minutes of the April 2, 2008 Architectural Review Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6F) 04/11/2008 – Recreation Commission – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the April 11, 2008 Recreation Commission meeting was received for information without comment.

6G) 04/09/2008 – Golf and Country Club Advisory Board – Rescheduling Notice

Rescheduling Notice of the April 9, 2008 Golf and Country Club Advisory Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6H) 04/07/2008 – Zoning and Planning Board – Minutes

Minutes of the April 7, 2008 Zoning and Planning Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6I) 04/07/2008 – Board of Adjustment – Approval of Actions Taken at their Meeting of April 7, 2008, Subject to the 10-day Appeal Period

Actions taken by the Board of Adjustment at their meeting of April 7, 2008 were approved subject to the 10-day appeal period.

Councilman Youngs moved to approve the actions. Councilman Dotson seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

7. Public Hearings:

None.

8. Consent Agenda:

8A) Approval of the City Attorney's Invoice for March 2008 in the Amount of \$9,960.50

There was no discussion regarding this item.

Councilman Best moved the item. Vice Mayor Garcia seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

9. Old Business:

9A) Consideration of a Merit Increase for the City Clerk

Item **tabled** until the April 28, 2008 Regular Meeting.

9B) Appointments to Advisory Boards by the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Bain appointed E. Jorge Santin to the Recreation Commission for an unexpired term ending on April 30, 2010 (replaces Cheryl Mulet).

Councilman Dotson (Group II) re-appointed Dr. Stephanie Kondy to the Recreation Commission for a 3-year term ending on April 30, 2011.

Councilman Dotson (Group II) re-appointed Helen Lawrence to the Code Review Board for a 3-year term ending on April 30, 2011.

9C) Discussion Regarding Fair Havens – Trane Chiller Noise Issue

City Manager Borgmann referred to the agenda back up documentation including two memoranda from the Assistant City Manager and a letter to Trane/Ingersoll Rand District Manager Louis J. Zaccone.

Councilman Dotson suggested that the letter to Trane should be addressed directly to the Chief Executive Officer making him responsible for a response to the City. He asked if there had been a problem with getting a response from District Manager Zaccone.

Assistant City Manager Gorland stated that Mr. Zaccone had been responsive, but he had delegated to the District Sales Representative who had been incommunicado and going back to the District Manager there had been no action.

To answer Councilman Best's question, City Manager Borgmann clarified that Mr. Zaccone had not responded. He said that the letter basically asked for their help in resolving the problem in order to have a solution that could be sold to others so that the units could be placed in residential areas since the City is extremely happy with the system.

Mayor Bain stated that there might be other air conditioning companies that have the technology or engineering plans for silencing the chiller noise.

Assistant City Manager Gorland responded that he had contacted the engineer for Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan as part of the process in obtaining the specifications needed for the Request for Proposals (RFP). At the same time he is working with one of the principals on the complaint side regarding the City Attorney's suggestion for an alternative strategy and there are at least four different avenues to follow.

Mayor Bain requested an update for the next meeting.

9D) Status Report on the Water and Sewer Systems Transfer to the County

City Manager Borgmann stated that work is continuing on the potential transfer of the water and sewer systems to the County. He met with County Water and Sewer Department (WASA) officials, together with the City Attorney and the Assistant City Manager on March 27th. The issue was the language of the proposed agreement that will affect the transfer. He believes that the documents are close to being ready for presentation to Council in the near future.

City Manager Borgmann said that there would be minor details to work out in order to defease the water and sewer fund bonds, including the actual payment and the amount the City would be borrowing from the County.

City Attorney Seiden stated that he would spend time redrafting the entire document so that it would be easier to understand the process. He explained there is a procedural process to follow whereby advance notice is given to the bond counsel for the defeasement process and the arrangement of wire transfers of funds from the County to the proper escrow agent. The City must sign a security instrument so he suggested a Promissory Note, which the County provided and he redrafted.

City Attorney Seiden said that it is more of an explanative process, the County has had the agreement for a week and there had not been any negative comments. The Promissory Note will be submitted to the County on Tuesday, April 15th. He said that everyone is trying to reach the goal that will make the transfer feasible and timing is the only problem because the process must be expedited in order to be able to make the payment by September 1, 2008.

Attorney Seiden stated that the County representatives had provided the City with documents that were very helpful. He said that copies of the agreement would be provided to Council as soon as the County gives their approval. There was one paragraph in the agreement that remains to be completed regarding personnel issues and hiring of City employees.

Attorney Seiden suggested a provision that the City would have a year to pay back the funds should the County advance the monies and the transfer does not happen. He said that he was not sure that the County would agree to this provision, but he felt that the agreement is workable and he is optimistic it would be approved. The only problem is timing because the City Council does not meet in July and the County does not hold meetings in August. He would hope to have preliminary approval of the agreement by the second meeting in May and conditional approval from the County before the July recess.

To answer Councilman Best's question, City Attorney Seiden clarified that the agreement would definitely need County Commission approval.

Councilman Dotson asked if there is an interest percentage on the Promissory Note.

City Attorney Seiden stated that the County did not fill in the interest percentage, which he also left blank. He explained that some of the numbers had changed due to current conditions, which was anticipated and he left the page blank for the County to complete.

To answer Councilman Dotson's question, City Attorney Seiden stated that the agreement will be "conditionally" approved by the City Council and the County Commission before closing. He explained that the main condition is the advancing of the funds to the City for the payoff of the bond indebtedness and once this happens, pursuant to the conditional agreement, the Mayor will sign a document for the City that guarantees and confirms that in fact the City has received the benefit of using the County's \$8,650,000.

City Attorney Seiden stated that the note will be interest bearing at some rate up until the date of closing. On the day of closing, the County must cancel the note and return it to the City at which time the payment schedule in the agreement takes over. The \$8.6 million plus accrued interest will go into a formula on that page within the agreement and it is anticipated that the repayment will be \$1.5 million over a twenty-year period. The numbers will be factored in at that point and the repayment on the schedule will take over.

Councilman Dotson commented that the users will be charged for the repayment, not the City.

City Attorney Seiden confirmed that Councilman Dotson was correct. The charge was estimated to be \$112.00, which may fluctuate. The theory of the agreement is that the County would charge the City of Miami Springs' customers a surcharge percentage based upon consumption on their quarterly bill.

Councilman Dotson said that the City has one of the highest utility rates in the County and he understood that even with the added surcharge that the County rate would be lower.

City Manager Borgmann responded that technically the rate may be less; the County charges by 100 cubic feet, while the City charges by 1,000 gallons. The County rate is basically lower than the City rate due to economy of scale. He added that the future repairs would become the burden of the County, which will be covered by the additional surcharge. He added that there could be substantial increases in the wholesale rate.

Councilman Youngs commented that switching over to the County rate, plus the surcharge would be less than the City's current rate based on the 2005/2006 calculations, which are still up for determination.

City Manager Borgmann said that former Finance Director William Alonso based the numbers on different consumption rates, which indicated a savings on consumption up to 30,000 gallons per month.

Councilman Youngs stated that the surcharge would be a finite number as opposed to the amount that the City would be paying for repairs over the same period. This protects the residents of Miami Springs from an increase in the cost of maintaining the sewer system over and above the surcharge amount.

9E) Status Report and Consideration of Re-vote Regarding Allowing Use of the Gymnasium by Urban Championship Wrestling (UCW)

City Manager Borgmann stated that Council approval for the use of the gymnasium was conditional upon the fact that Urban Championship Wrestling (UCW) was a not-for-profit organization and research yielded information from their attorney that they were indeed a for profit group. The Administration asked UCW representatives if they wanted to appear before Council for reconsideration of the previous vote based upon the fact that they could not use the gymnasium based on the wording of the motion.

City Manager Borgmann reported that as of Friday, April 11th he was informed that UCW was going to sign a contract for another venue and they will not be hosting the events at the City gymnasium on April 26th or May 31st.

10. New Business:

10A) Discussion Regarding Police Staff (Requested by Mayor Bain)

Mayor Bain stated that there were questions posed to the City Council and Administration via e-mail regarding the Police Department Staff. He requested this agenda item to discuss the matter publicly.

City Manager Borgmann explained that prior to the e-mail correspondence the Administration was already planning for what they expected would happen when the Doral and Miami Gardens Police Departments came on line. He said that reports were made to Council at previous meetings and the City had been advertising for Police Officers prior to the e-mail correspondence.

City Manager Borgmann mentioned that the City of Doral Police Department would begin operating on June 1st and they already lost two officers to Miami Gardens and Coral Gables. He said that Human Resources Director Loretta Boucher and Chief of Police H. Randall Dilling prepared an informational package with a county-wide survey indicating that other cities have vacancies and smaller departments are losing people.

City Manager Borgmann stated that the City is competing with fifty-two Police Departments, including thirty municipalities in Miami-Dade, two Monroe County Sheriff Departments and eighteen Broward cities, plus the Broward County Sheriff's Department.

City Manager Borgmann said that the City of Miami Springs has forty-three sworn police officer positions, but the budget includes funding for forty-one. The reduction was a factor in lowering the millage rate from 7.5 to 6.3 mills.

City Manager Borgmann commented that sixteen Police Officers had left the Department in the last five years, including two retirements, one dismissal for cause and thirteen resignations. Nineteen Police Officers were hired and one Dispatcher was sent to the Police Academy, which is a good record for staffing.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the City of Miami Gardens and Doral have incentive packages for new hires and he understands that thirty officers had left Miami Gardens since the inception of the Department. He said that there might be better offers, benefits or personal reasons for changing employment and a small city cannot offer the same incentives as the City of Hialeah or Miami-Dade County.

Councilman Youngs stated that the City has exit interviews and most officers who left the employment of Miami Springs had left on friendly terms. He asked if there was any additional information disclosed from the exit interviews that would indicate a particular generalization.

Human Resources Director Loretta Boucher said that when an officer leaves she likes to find out why they are leaving and if there is any room for improvement. The general comments from the officers that have left are that they like the Department, the friendly residents and the management, but there is no place for advancement.

Ms. Boucher explained that the Detective Bureau is an assignment which comes up for bid. She said that out of the last three officers that left, one went to Doral for a specialty assignment for driving under the influence, one went to Miami Gardens and is on a special task force, and one went to Miami-Dade to be on the S.W.A.T. team. There were twenty-one officers who were eligible to take a promotional exam and fourteen declined because they liked their assignments and shifts.

Ms. Boucher added that the City of Miami Springs has personalized Police service with very good Officers who have a good reputation. There were five examinations for Police Officers last year and most cannot pass the background check or they fail some part of the examination. She reiterated the fact that the City is competing with fifty-two departments and there is a big demand for Police Officers. She explained that the Village of Pinecrest has a budget for approximately fifty officers and they have thirteen vacancies.

City Manager Borgmann found it interesting that the Village of Pinecrest has thirteen vacancies and ten were a result of the officers going to the City of Doral. He said that people are looking for advancement and moving on to a larger department.

Councilman Best asked Ms. Boucher if she felt there was a serious problem.

Ms. Boucher responded that everyone is having a problem getting Police Officers and the City would continue recruiting experienced officers or early retirees from other cities. The City's contract includes a provision for lateral hires and experienced officers begin at a higher rate of pay.

Councilman Dotson likes the fact that the City conducts exit interviews and he understands the problem with the Department not having room for advancement. He asked if it would be possible to create new ranks or more positions.

City Manager Borgmann commented that in order to meet the minimum manpower on the streets one officer from the Community Policing Office and one from the Detective Bureau were transferred to patrol.

To answer Councilman Dotson's question, Chief of Police Dilling stated that additional positions are negotiable with the Police Benevolent Association (P.B.A). He proposed the rank of Corporal to take the place of the Officer in Charge (OIC) on each shift and that would have opened up at least five promotional positions, but unfortunately the specifics were not finalized before the contract was settled.

Chief of Police Dilling explained that during the last 5-1/2 years he had promoted one Captain, three Lieutenants and four of the five Sergeants mainly due to retirements. He said that positions open from time to time, but not as frequently as they do in a larger department.

Councilman Dotson said that he had previously suggested planning for a new Police facility that has modern amenities, which would benefit and preserve the police careers. He knows there is a difficult financial situation and he would like to plan for the future because there is nothing more important than the City's Police Department. He commented that something must be done to make it more attractive to be a Police Officer in Miami Springs.

Councilman Dotson asked if there were any other benefits for consideration that are not open to discussions with the P.B.A.

Chief of Police Dilling responded that all benefits are automatically negotiable with the P.B.A.

Vice Mayor Garcia stated that there had been discussions about take home vehicles. He would like to know if this is still a possibility.

City Manager Borgmann responded that take home cars had been a consideration, but due to current economic conditions the idea had been put on the "back burner".

Vice Mayor Garcia commented that the Administration was beginning to work on a plan to bring in new officers with possible new benefits. He asked if there were any recommendations for solving what he and the residents see as a problem because more officers are considering leaving.

Chief of Police Dilling stated that the Administration is always looking for ways to make conditions better. He would like to be full staffed, but unfortunately two large departments geared up this past year and took 250 applicants from the South Florida pool, which hurt everyone. The Town of Medley just hired the first officer in two years out of thirty applicants and they are still down by six officers. He reiterated that all cities are in the same situation.

Vice Mayor Garcia expressed his concern about solving the problem. He would be willing to make budget sacrifices to maintain the quality of policing in the community.

City Manager Borgmann emphasized that safety had not dropped one iota and that is why officers were transferred from the Detective Bureau and Community Policing Office to make sure the right number of officers are on the streets protecting the residents. A benefit package is a negotiable issue that is done through a formal collective bargaining process. There is a contract re-opener coming up that is strictly for pension, but many of the younger recruits do not care about pension.

Vice Mayor Garcia reiterated that residents are concerned about safety, although he knows safety is not being jeopardized, but there needs to be a plan to prevent officers from leaving.

City Manager Borgmann said that the contract re-opens next year if Council has a recommendation for benefits to be negotiated. The current contract included a generous cost of living increase on top of the step increase, which is an opportunity for up to a 10% increase each year.

To answer the Mayor's question, Human Resources Director Boucher stated that there were five police officer examinations in 2007 and all positions were filled. She explained that she had been advertising throughout South Florida and on the internet. Testing will take place on Wednesday, April 16th and she hopes to fill the two open positions from approximately ten candidates.

Mayor Bain asked if Miami Springs could hire part-time officers similar to the program in the Village of Virginia Gardens.

Chief of Police Dilling responded that the City is able to fill shifts without part-time officers, although some overtime and temporary transfers are required. He emphasized that no shifts are working below minimum manpower per contract requirements.

Mayor Bain stated that he spoke with some retired Police Officers that work part-time. He suggested that this could be a solution if the City continues losing officers.

Chief of Police Dilling explained that Virginia Gardens has a part-time Police Department and Miami Springs is a full-time Department that cannot give a part-time officer a shift that would be available to a full-time officer because it would create a problem with the Union. He does not foresee a crisis that would require part-time officers.

Councilman Dotson said that in June 2007, he asked to consider take home cars, especially for those living in Miami Springs. He was told at that time that the union would have to negotiate this because it was a benefit. He asked if this was still true.

Chief of Police Dilling clarified that take home cars would have to be negotiated by the Union.

To answer Councilman Youngs' question, Chief of Police Dilling confirmed that the re-opener this year is strictly for pension.

Councilman Youngs said that Council is not prohibited from discussing benefits and it might be beneficial to determine and prepare a cost benefit analysis for incentives that could be offered in the future.

City Manager Borgmann explained that there was a past pension issue and the Union charged the City with unfair labor practice for giving a benefit that was not negotiated.

Councilman Youngs stated that quality Police service is a precious element that should not be lost by being proactive. He would like to look at the cost analysis of benefits that could be negotiated when the contract opens next year.

City Attorney Seiden said that subject to the approval of the Labor Attorney, Council could give direction to the Administration to recommend incentives for consideration and prior to the contract re-opener or contract negotiations Council would hold an Executive Session.

To answer the Mayor's question, Human Resources Director Boucher explained that the written examinations are graded the same day and the oral interviews are scheduled. The background checks are then conducted.

Chief of Police Dilling clarified that the written and oral examination process takes approximately 2-1/2 weeks and the background process begins.

Councilman Best would like to begin planning the arbitration for the next contract, including the consideration of additional ranks as suggested by Councilman Dotson.

Councilman Dotson felt that there should be one night set aside for an Executive Session to discuss all demands and counter proposals. He was of the opinion that the pre-meeting session was very unproductive.

Vice Mayor Garcia was under the impression that there was going to be a follow-up session, but the negotiations were finalized and he did not get an opportunity to ask questions.

City Attorney Seiden advised Council that the Executive Session could be scheduled for a different night or it could be earlier in the day before the Council meeting. He explained that the purpose of an Executive Session is to advise Council and the bargaining is conducted by the team. The last session was very successful and an agreement was reached before there was a need for another meeting.

Councilman Youngs asked Attorney Seiden to confer with the Labor Attorney to determine if it would be appropriate for Council to have a discussion about the cost benefit analysis for incentives and at the same time Council could consider the pension benefit proposal.

(Mayor Bain call for a five-minute recess)

10B) Discussion Regarding Water Conservation (Requested by Councilman Dotson)

Councilman Dotson stated that this weekend's Springs River Festival has an environmental Earth Day theme that coincides with his introduction of the subject of water conservation. He believes the most precious element today is potable water and as demands on this resource grow, it will increasingly become more urgent that each person learn to use less. It is time for the City to begin taking part in a more tangible way and developing programs and policies that lead to more resident participation in conservation.

Councilman Dotson proposed implementing a rain barrel program as soon as possible. He explained that rain barrels are placed on blocks with a tap six-inches from the bottom so that a hose can be attached. Rain water is collected from the gutter spout into the barrel and it can be used for irrigation for plants and grass. His plan is to involve 250 homes, beginning with ten homes in the first phase. Phase two would involve efforts of the High School Eco-Hawks, Boy Scouts and any groups that would be willing to assist in the program. Funding could be obtained with a successful grant application that is submitted to the South Florida Water Management District.

Councilman Dotson believes the program should be directed and coordinated by a fully-staffed Ecology Board, which is understaffed by two positions at the present time. He respectfully requests that the appropriate Council members endeavor to make the appointments as soon as possible.

Councilman Dotson felt that past Ecology Board members had resigned due to a lack of serious duties, which is tragic because there are many activities with regard to environmental concerns. He would like to make the Board as effective and meaningful as the other advisory boards. He suggested using the Board of Parks and Parkways members or other board members to participate in the program.

Councilman Dotson requested Council support by being proactive. He feels that water conservation is becoming more crucial as the years pass and it is important to educate kids and adults how to inaugurate programs that are helpful and productive.

Mayor Bain was of the opinion that a volunteer organization or individual residents should take the initiative to begin the program without City involvement.

Councilman Dotson understands that grant money is available from the South Florida Management District and only an application from the City's professional grant writer would determine if this is correct. He felt that it is the City's responsibility to support the implementation of the program, which could be turned over to volunteers at some future date.

Councilman Best suggested that it might be prudent to ask the City Manager to speak with Grant Writer Carol Foster who could pursue the possibility of a grant and report back at the next meeting.

Councilman Dotson stated that he felt this would be a good first step.

Councilman Youngs commented that it would be appropriate to also request a report on the success or lack of success of the recycling program within the City. He felt that it is important to publicize and emphasize the importance of recycling on an ongoing basis.

Councilman Best learned that Palm Beach County issues code enforcement violations to people for not recycling. He estimates that only one-third of the residents in Miami Springs participate in recycling.

Councilman Dotson believes that the Ecology Board would be a natural group to work with the program. He said that the advisory boards are very valuable and he would like to see the Ecology Board have a purpose and become vibrant.

Vice Mayor Garcia suggested that the Board of Parks and Parkways could participate or join with the Ecology Board members in handling these type of matters.

Councilman Best was of the opinion that the Ecology Board is clearly in charge of conservation, not the Board of Parks and Parkways.

City Manager Borgmann explained that there would be pros and cons of combining the Parks and Parkways and Ecology boards.

Vice Mayor Garcia stated that he would like to weigh the pros and cons and it is important to make sure the issues are tackled. He agreed that water conservation is important as well as preserving the tree canopy and green space.

Councilman Dotson would like to see the program develop first before considering the consolidation of advisory boards. The Ecology Board could focus on recycling, water conservation and other environmental matters.

Councilman Youngs referred to another water conservation issue, the watering of the Golf Course, although the issue should not be referred to an advisory board, but it could be considered as a capital improvement project during the upcoming budget. One of the deficiencies of the Golf Course is the inefficient use of the water supply and a capital improvement project could help to dramatically reduce the water use.

Councilman Best was concerned that consolidation of advisory boards could eliminate citizen representation.

Mayor Bain stated that some of the advisory boards are productive and the members dedicate their personal time, but sometimes what they are trying to accomplish results in a cost to the residents. He would like to be practical about what the City can afford. The Grant Writer has priorities and the water conservation grant could be added to the list with Council's consent.

Mayor Bain said that the rain barrels could be tested first on a volunteer basis to see if they are viable before the City pursues the program. He was concerned that there might not be enough participation and the grant funds could be spent for other purposes.

Councilman Dotson felt that in order to make a rain barrel program effective that it would have to involve the City. His recommendation is to begin with a grant that is written for 250 units and there are more than that number of people who would be happy to adopt the barrels. Most people who love trees will also be interested in rain barrels. He added that the City of Doral has a program as well as other cities.

Mayor Bain reiterated that volunteer organizations like the Rotary, Optimist, Lions and Women's Club could participate in these types of projects and if it becomes a program that is appropriate to pursue he would follow the recommendation. He would like to know first if there is enough participation.

Councilman Dotson moved to authorize the City Manager to request that the Grant Writer look into the possibility of writing a grant application for the rain barrel program and Councilman Youngs seconded the motion.

To answer Mayor Bain's question, Councilman Dotson clarified that it would be a water conservation grant with the South Florida Water Management District based on a cost analysis for 250 barrels. He added that there was a workshop session a few weeks ago with a demonstration and hopefully there will be a rain barrel on display at the Springs River Festival and their cost was \$30.00 per barrel. The water taps and overflow valves also have associated costs that would be part of the application.

Vice Mayor Garcia stated that he would support the motion because water conservation is very important. He knows the Grant Writer has a list of priorities and he would not want to give the City Manager the false impression that the water conservation grant should be at the top of the list.

Councilman Dotson agreed with Vice Mayor Garcia that the grant list should be prioritized.

Councilman Youngs stated that he would be in favor of seeing the feasibility of the grant writing and having the City Manager come back with a report at the next meeting.

The motion carried 4-1 on voice vote with Mayor Bain casting the dissenting vote.

10C) Discussion Regarding Leasing of the Recreation Facilities (Requested by Councilman Dotson)

City Manager Borgmann stated that this agenda item was scheduled at Councilman Dotson's request and the Administration prepared some information in a memorandum regarding the current criteria for booking events and programs.

Councilman Dotson explained that there was some uncertainty about whether or not the wrestling event should have been considered as a sports activity or entertainment. He feels that the Recreation facilities are primarily for the residents in Miami Springs. The kids play basketball in the gym and when it is rented for \$418.00 for a Saturday, this is a very low fee to allow someone to take over the facility. He would like consideration of a different pricing schedule for these types of events.

Councilman Dotson stated that the activity was intended to promote the wrestling organization. He asked if the organization was a non-profit organization and they explained that the organization helps deprived kids by putting them on the right track. He said that some organizations that use the facility are for-profit, which is fine if the participants are Miami Springs residents who pay taxes.

Councilman Dotson commented that Council should remain cognizant that the gym, swimming pool and park are in a neighborhood and the activities should be consonant with that environment. He does not favor any large audiences or crowds from outside the City that will park in the adjacent swales because the residents are entitled to peace and protection of their property.

Councilman Dotson stated that he would like a better definition for use of the facility so that the Recreation Staff could make decisions with a clear understanding of what uses are permitted. The Urban Championship Wrestling event came up in February 2008, and it became a difficult situation by the time the Administration realized there could be a problem. The wrestling organization signed an agreement and was led to believe that the event was approved and the final decision was left to Council.

City Manager Borgmann said that when someone requests permission for a special event or to use a City facility the first step is to check to make sure that it will not conflict with another activity. In the case of the wrestling event, the calendar was not checked very well because it conflicted with the Pelican Players who are using the Cavalier Annex. He explained that this was really the first time there was an issue about using the facility and everything possible is done to maximize the facilities without displacing a regular activity with a special event.

City Manager Borgmann stated that Special Event applications must be completed together with proof of insurance and a clean-up deposit. The Administration checks with the various departments to make sure there is no conflict with the use of the facilities. He said that the events are screened to make sure the uses are reasonable.

City Manager Borgmann explained that fees for use of City facilities were established many years ago, so one assumes that rental is allowed. He stated that the Tot-lot was built by the community and the policy is not to allow rental for a private party, while rental of the Senior Center facility is permitted.

Councilman Best commented that the Administration screens the events thoroughly and the problem with the wrestling event was that the representatives were disingenuous with their initial approach to the City and that is why he opposed the use. He said that it would have been a different situation had they been forthright and presented the necessary paperwork.

Councilman Best stated that adjusting the rates for use of the facilities probably has some merit.

Mayor Bain recalled special events that were held years ago when the gym was filled to capacity, including Orange Bowl related activities, International Swim dances and basketball tournaments. He said that people were welcome to participate in the City.

Mayor Bain explained that he understands Councilman Dotson's position, although he does not understand why it is bad to attract people to the City. He suggested better procedures to follow and consideration of charging appropriate fees for the use of the facilities.

Councilman Dotson stated that the City Manager should be the one to manage the use of City facilities. He would like to tighten the policy so that Staff is better informed and the City Manager would be the final arbiter when there is a question. He added that the size and following of the crowd should not be ignored because it could invite trouble and he would like Staff to explain what is permitted and tolerated when an event is first proposed in order to avoid any misunderstanding.

City Attorney Seiden advised Council that they are the policy makers of the City and when an event is questionable in the City Manager's mind he brings it to Council.

Councilman Dotson reiterated that there should be a better definition of what type of organizations are allowed to use the gym. The City Manager should make the judgment and he would support his decision.

10D) Discussion Regarding Upcoming Public Hearing Meeting on Annexation and Formulation of Questions to be Asked at that Meeting (Requested by Mayor Bain)

City Manager Borgmann stated that the County is proposing a new ordinance that would require annexing municipalities, individuals or groups to seek third party mediation at their own expense when the boundaries of two or more annexation applications conflict and to resubmit the applications within six months of seeking third party mediation reflecting mutually agreed upon boundaries. If a boundary change application is not resubmitted within six months the original application will be considered formally withdrawn. The ordinance would affect future applications for annexation of land.

To answer Mayor Bain's question, City Attorney Seiden clarified that the new ordinance would be applicable to Miami Springs. The County Commission will be voting on the proposal on June 10, 2008 and notification of the first reading was received via e-mail. The County Commission does not want to be in the middle of a dispute on boundaries and they will not be making those decisions.

City Manager Borgmann stated that he prepared a list of questions based on his review of past annexation discussions and that Council could add or delete questions they felt were appropriate. He suggested that one representative could present the questions at the public meeting that County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa mentioned would take place. He read the questions as follows:

- 1) *"Does the County have any issues regarding Miami Springs and contiguity to the area in question?"*
- 2) *How does the County interpret the "Terminal Ordinance" as it relates to "control" of the area following the annexation of the area?*
 - a. *Is it a matter of negotiation of the required interlocal agreement(s)?*
 - b. *If control still rests in the hands of the County, how long and to what extent will zoning and planning issues be impacted?*
 - c. *Would the City's agreement to continue the County's zoning designations be sufficient? What would be the length of time for such an agreement?*
- 3) *What impact, if any, will the City's decision to exclude the FEC rail yard from our application have on the prior questions or annexation in general?*
- 4) *Does the County have any specific knowledge of any plans by the FEC to "abandon" the rail yard and allow it to be developed?*
- 5) *Will the County require any form of citizen approval (vote, straw ballot, etc.) as a condition of granting annexation?*

- 6) *Is Area “9” (the area surrounding the new Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) available for annexation? We have heard conflicting comments about this area and would like to know, yes or no, if this area is available.*
- 7) *What will the City’s financial responsibility with regard to already bonded or special assessment projects within the area to be annexed?*
- 8) *What will “mitigation” consist of? Is it a set percentage, millage rate or an actual calculation of the specific costs of services versus the revenues generated in the area?*
- 9) *How far south will Virginia Gardens be allowed to go? We support them as shown on the map.*
- 10) *What is the status of the Aviation Department’s “2020” plan for westerly expansion?”*

City Manager Borgmann said that mitigation would most likely be the actual calculation of the specific costs of services versus the revenues. He did not know how the County would handle the situation in an area where the expenditures exceed the revenues, which is the case in the MIC area.

City Manager Borgmann stated that the “2020” plan was adopted by the County Commission years ago that applies to the area west of the Airport from N. W. 36th Street south that is to be purchased by the Aviation Department for runway extensions. This plan could impact Virginia Gardens, which could also impact the City’s negotiations for annexing an area down to 36th Street in that area to the west.

Mayor Bain explained that he requested this discussion, there are ten questions to be answered and he is proposing to hold a Workshop or Special meeting to set the strategy to go forward as soon as the City is informed about the date of the County public meeting. He asked Council to consider any comments or questions that they would like to include in the County presentation and submit them to the City Manager.

Councilman Dotson stated that he would like to be present at the County “sunshine” meeting with all the cities. He agreed with Mayor Bain that it is important to hold a Workshop or Special meeting in order to decide the consensus with regard to annexation. The major problems involve the terminal ordinance, contiguity and mitigation. He would like citizen ratification by referendum on whatever decision is made at the end result of the process.

10E) Resolution – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with Limousines of South Florida, Inc. in Accordance with the City Council’s Authorization to Utilize Another Governmental Bid Award; Directions to City Clerk; Effective Date

City Attorney Seiden read the resolution by title.

Attorney Seiden stated that this is the enabling resolution to authorize the execution of the contract with Limousines of South Florida, Inc.

Councilman Best moved to adopt the resolution. Vice Mayor Garcia seconded the motion which carried 5-0 on roll call vote (Resolution No. 2008-3394).

10F) Recommendation that Council Approve an Expenditure in an Amount not to Exceed \$17,700 to the Mellgren Planning Group for Assistance with Updating the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) and Preparation of a New Water Supply Facilities Work Plan, as provided in Section 31.11 (E) (6) (g) of the City Code

City Manager Borgmann read the title of the award. He explained that there are certain elements that must be addressed before Tallahassee will accept the Comprehensive Plan amendments.

City Planner Richard E. Ventura stated that Florida Statutes Section 163.3177 (6) (c) requires an update of the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) and a Water Supply Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Water Supply Facilities Work Plan. The updated CIE is due for review by December 1st each year, which includes the following:

- Water Management District regional water supply projects
- Proportionate fair share projects for transportation
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
- Local School District Projects

City Planner Ventura explained that Water Supply Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Water Supply Facilities Work Plans are due by August 15, 2008, identifying all possible potable water supply sources that are present currently and those that are anticipated to be utilized in the future. This is especially important when considering any large site plan projects on N. W. 36th Street.

City Planner Ventura stated that the Mellgren Planning Group presented the most reasonable proposal and he is requesting approval in an amount not to exceed \$17,700.00. He added that he likes the idea of having a “new set of eyes” for review of the various projects.

Councilman Youngs asked if the three proposals were interchangeable and the determining factor was the price.

City Planner Ventura responded that he reviewed the various items in terms of the milestones in the projects and they coincided. He said that the City would be getting good value for the price.

To answer the Mayor’s question, Mr. Ventura stated that various sanctions regarding failure to meet the obligations would hold up approval of any amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and declare the City ineligible for any grants.

Councilman Dotson moved to approve and Vice Mayor Garcia seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

City Planner Ventura stated that he contacted the Florida International University Metropolitan Center to ask if they would be amenable to working with the Mellgren Planning Group with regard to handing off the completed revised Comprehensive Plan Amendment package and they responded affirmatively.

To answer Mayor Bain's question, City Planner Ventura stated that the added task is a requirement that would not delay the amendment process because the projects would be done currently. He said that the Metropolitan Center is almost finished with the revised amendment package and once the package is forwarded to the City it will be reviewed by the South Florida Regional Planning Council, which should be within one month.

(10H partially considered before 10G)

10G) Consideration of Items Referred by the Golf and Country Club Advisory Board

City Manager Borgmann stated that items 10G and 10H refer to a new process that was presented at the last Council meeting. If any advisory board requests a specific action it would be presented to Council in a memo form attached to the minutes for review and consideration of the request. In the future, these particular items will be considered under the review of the advisory board minutes.

1. Expanding the driving range on the north side to accommodate more business.

City Manager Borgmann stated that the Golf and Country Club Advisory Board feels that more business could be generated by expanding the driving range on the north side to accommodate more golfers. He asked Golf Director Mike Aldridge to prepare a cost benefit analysis to create more tee boxes versus the amount of revenue that could be generated and he currently does not believe there is a critical need. During discussion, it was suggested that the lanes could be marked to divide the spaces.

To answer Councilman Best's question, Mr. Borgmann explained that the recommendation was for seven additional tee boxes at the driving range.

Councilman Dotson and Councilman Best stated that they would like to see the cost benefit analysis.

Councilman Youngs stated that he would not hurt to prepare the analysis with the pros and cons, including the cost.

10H) Consideration of Items Referred by the Recreation Commission

Charlene Anderson of 887 Heron Avenue stated that she strongly opposes any type of lighting at the High School. She explained that once lights are installed they would be the property of the Miami-Dade County School Board and the area High Schools would have priority for use of the field at night. Ms. Anderson continued to explain the various problems associated with lighting of the field, which could draw all types of nighttime events. She said that the citizens deserve to enjoy the peace and quiet in the neighborhood in the evening.

1. Investigate lighting the high school fields.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the Optimist Club raised the idea of lighting the high school field approximately one year ago.

Mayor Bain clarified that the former High School Baseball Coach first approached the Optimist Club with the idea.

City Manager Borgmann heard that there was an agreement between the High School and the surrounding neighbors at the time when the ball fields were created and one stipulation that was agreed upon was that there would be no lights on the field. He reported that when Dove Avenue Park was expanded to include the parking lot, four Tee-ball fields and eventually the Dog Park, the agreement with the neighbors on Quail Avenue was that those fields would not be lit.

Vice Mayor Garcia commented that the neighbors still feel the same way today about installing lights in that area, especially on the South side of the Dog Park. He agreed that recreation space is needed for nighttime events.

To answer Mayor Bain's question, Mrs. Anderson stated that when the subject of lighting the fields was first addressed by the Education Advisory Board she spoke with Region 3 Director Robert Kalinsky. Mr. Kalinsky said that he did not understand the reason why citizens were considering lights for the High School field because they would be the property of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Education Advisory Board had worked for six years to reduce the student population at the school. The lights would open the use of the field to all schools in the County.

Councilman Dotson said that it is important to examine the points made by Mrs. Anderson and it would not make sense to pursue lighting the High School field if the City does not have control over the use of the field.

Councilman Best said that the field's location is adjacent to the residents' homes and even though recreation is in dire need of space, it is his opinion that alternate locations should be considered.

Councilman Youngs stated that the residents had been good neighbors to the High School and the lights would be too intrusive. He added that from a monetary standpoint the City has limited resources and any contribution for lighting should be for lights that are controlled by the City.

Vice Mayor Garcia stated that there are no locations for park space in the City where the residents would not be bothered by lights.

Council **denied** the request from the Recreation Commission to investigate the installation of lights on the High School fields.

2. Seek additional locations for various parks and recreations activities within the City, regardless of their current ownership and purpose.

City Manager Borgmann commented that Peavy Field is owned by the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department and there is no long-term guarantee for its use by the City. The City has a ten-year extension for the use of Stafford Park and the School Board might require use of the land in the future. He said that the City owns the 212-acre Golf Course that could be reconfigured to carve out a certain amount of space away from the neighbors that could be used for a lighted field.

City Manager Borgmann added that the land used as a parking lot near the Credit Union was considered for use as a recreational facility, but the County would have to go through many obstacles to dispose of the land because it is owned by the Aviation Department and falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Authority.

Vice Mayor Garcia said that at some point Council might be faced with the decision to utilize part of the Golf Course for recreation space.

Councilman Youngs suggested that the City could consider purchasing Stafford Park at some point in the future when funds are available. He said that under the current budget crisis the County might be amenable to an agreement that would include long-term financing.

City Manager Borgmann said that consideration had been given to expanding the use of the area at Stafford Park between the south baseball field and the playground that could accommodate a small practice field.

Councilman Youngs commented that there is an area between the Region 3 Office and the Middle School that would accommodate practice fields as a joint agreement with the School Board.

Vice Mayor Garcia mentioned that the Recreation Needs Assessment indicated a need for smaller parks throughout the City. He said that the Town of Miami Lakes has small parks throughout the community with one bench and a slide or swings, which would be a less expensive solution rather than building an entire park.

Vice Mayor Garcia stated that one area for consideration would be the triangle area along Lake and Morningside Drive or along the bike path.

Councilman Youngs commented that the vacant land west of the clay pit could accommodate a soccer field with indirect lighting that would not spill over into the neighborhood. He asked to consider if this area would be off the table or not, although people might not be happy with the use in the evening.

Councilman Best explained that the Recreation Commission had discussed the use of the vacant land mentioned by Councilman Youngs, but unfortunately there are high tension electrical lines running east and west.

Vice Mayor Garcia stated that there is an area on the North side of Hunting Lodge Court where it meets Melrose and he would walk his kids to the park to let them play.

Councilman Best mentioned that there is another area along Ludlam and North Royal Poinciana by the canal.

Assistant City Manager Gorland reminded Council that fencing would be required for any playground areas throughout the City, according to the Florida League of Cities.

Councilman Dotson requested that the Administration consider space for an outdoor basketball court and skate park.

Assistant City Manager Gorland responded that the area by Lee Drive is a perfect space for a skateboard park and outdoor basketball.

Council **requested** an inventory of areas in the City that would be available for park space.

3. For Council to suggest any items that they would like this Board to address or pursue.

Council **deferred** the request to suggest items for the Recreation Commission to address pending contract with their respective appointees.

Councilman Dotson commented that the West Miami Grant Specialist informed him that the County has funds for recreation facilities, including outdoor basketball courts.

City Manager Borgmann stated that the Administration would continue checking the availability of grants.

10I) Recommendation that Council Approve an Expenditure of, Not to Exceed \$14,255.14, to Florida Police Products, for Uniforms, Utilizing City of Miami Springs Bid # 03-07/08, as provided in Section 3.11 (E) (1) and (2) of the City Code, on an “As Needed Basis”

City Manager Borgmann read the title of the award.

City Manager Borgmann said that Harrison Uniforms submitted a lower combined bid; however, they did not bid the specified OSHA approved rain gear, which made the overall bid much higher. The recommendation is to approve the award to Florida Police Products.

Councilman Best moved to approve and Vice Mayor Garcia seconded the motion.

To answer Councilman Dotson’s question, Chief of Police Dilling confirmed that funds are included in the current budget.

The motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

10J) Recommendation that Council Approve a Purchase Order in the Amount of \$33,450 to the Lowest Proposal, Wrangler Construction, Inc., for the Connection of the Sewer System to the New Restrooms at Stafford and Dove Avenue Parks

City Manager Borgmann stated that originally it was thought that the work could be done in-house and the work was not included in the bid for the restrooms.

Councilman Dotson asked why the determination was made that the work could not be done in-house.

City Manager Borgmann responded that the scope of work would have taken employees away from their regular responsibilities. The work involved cutting through the street.

Public Services Director Robert Williams explained that the City does not have the manpower or proper equipment to do the work in-house, especially at Stafford Park. He said that the labor and purchase of the equipment would cost approximately the same.

City Manager Borgmann stated that had Design Build Inter-American included the work in the original bid the cost would have been approximately \$48,700.00 more for Stafford Park alone. Bradford Plumbing submitted a quote of \$47,300 for both parks and Wrangler Construction bid \$33,450, which is less expensive.

To answer Mayor Bain’s question, City Manager Borgmann said that it was originally thought that the work simply involved the purchase of the pipe, digging the trench and the hook up to the sewer.

Public Services Director Williams explained that the problem with digging the trench involved pumping water out, which made the work more difficult.

Councilman Youngs moved to approve and Vice Mayor Garcia seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

10K) Report on Receipt of Proposals for New Community Center

City Manager Borgmann reported that four written proposals were received on Friday, April 11, 2008, for the Phase I construction of the new Community Center. He explained that Phase II involves the demolition of the old Recreation Center buildings and construction of a surface parking lot in its place.

City Manager Borgmann stated that the proposals range from \$5.3 million to \$6.7 million. He noted that Carivon did not break down their proposal the same as the other three companies and they would deduct \$70,000 for synthetic wood floor. The bid from Lemartec is for a steel building, which is the overall low. He explained that many companies were sent the invitation to bid and the bid amendments, but only four responded with similar bids.

City Manager Borgmann explained that a committee would be formed to review the proposals, including references, experience and qualifications, not just price. Normally, the top three companies would make a presentation to Council, at which time they are ranked and negotiations begin. He asked the companies to show him Pueblo style architecture that would soften the impact on the residential neighborhood.

Mayor Bain stated that the committee would evaluate the companies who would then make a presentation to Council.

Councilman Dotson asked how long the process would take for the committee to make their evaluation on the quality of the bids.

City Manager Borgmann stated that it would take time to form the committee, coordinate schedules and he would hope to have the report for the second meeting in May.

Councilman Dotson noted that only Zurqui listed an amount for architectural and engineering fees, which is a significant expense.

City Attorney Seiden explained that the numbers were submitted and Councilman Dotson made a good point about the architectural and engineering fees. The other companies might include an explanation in their packet, but the numbers will not change.

Councilman Dotson added that the best proposal from the four companies would be compared to the other alternative of refurbishing the existing gym. He wondered how long it would take the committee to make a recommendation because the gymnasium had been a consideration for a long time.

10L) Recommendation that Council approve Change Order # 1 to P. O. # 80649 in the Amount of \$2,771.00, to Advanced Recreational Concepts for the Dugouts

City Manager Borgmann stated that it is recommended that Council approve change order # 1 to Advanced Recreational Concepts in the amount of \$2,771.00.

Assistant City Manager Gorland explained the increase was a result of the plan changing to fit the size of the holes and the amount of rebar and cement to be installed in order to retain the required 146 mph wind load rating.

Councilman Dotson asked why the change order is the City's responsibility.

Assistant City Manager Gorland explained that the company offered the City the option to piggy-backing on their bids. When the company came out to measure they were told that roofs would have to be designed to cover the existing dugouts, which was the reason for the change order.

To answer Councilman Dotson's question, City Manager Borgmann explained that sometimes changes must be made when the work involves construction, although the hourly rate and the cost of the materials remain the same. A different installation might cost more or less than the actual bid for the another city, as opposed to simply purchasing a commodity.

Councilman Dotson asked if there is a limit of what can be added to the piggy-back process.

Assistant City Manager Gorland explained that he requested the modification to the plans because it would have been more expensive to modify the dugouts.

To answer Councilman Best's question, Mr. Borgmann clarified that \$2,771.00 includes all the dugouts.

Vice Mayor Garcia asked when the project would be finished once the change order is approved.

Assistant City Manager Gorland stated that there would not be a delay and the work would be finished in a few weeks as long as the weather is good.

Vice Mayor Garcia moved to approve. Councilman Best seconded the motion, which carried 4-1 with Councilman Dotson casting the dissenting vote.

11. Other Business:

None.

12. Reports & Recommendations:

12A) City Attorney:

None.

12B) City Manager

Springs River Festival

City Manager Borgmann announced that the Springs River Festival kicks off on Friday, April 18th with a parade starting at City Hall at 6:30 p.m. The opening ceremony begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Gazebo followed by the dedication of the new memorial monument at the Circle and Curtiss Parkway. There will be good music, food and fun for everyone and he hopes everyone comes out to enjoy it.

Deer Run Traffic Calming Device

City Manager Borgmann reported that the Deer Run traffic calming device could not be the same as the one in Coral Gables and a modification would be necessary with more emphasis on the Golf Course right-of-way rather than into the swale area. Two locations will be selected where the bike path does not extend too close to the road or does not interfere with a fire hydrant and when the locations are measured and determined that they will work, a letter will be sent to the residents. The devices will be tested on a temporary basis and Fire Rescue must be notified.

Vice Mayor Garcia asked the Administration to develop a plan for traffic calming devices in other areas throughout the City.

Pelican Players

City Manager Borgmann stated that the Pelican Players would begin a new production on April 26, 2008.

Little League Baseball

City Manager Borgmann reported that Little League T-ball, baseball and softball games are well under way and everyone should come watch them play.

Football Registration

City Manager Borgmann announced that football signups are being held at the Gym every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Summer Camp Registration

City Manager Borgmann stated that Summer Camp signups for Miami Springs residents will take place until May 1st, and after that time non-residents would be allowed to sign up if there are openings remaining.

Shuttle Bus Service

City Manager Borgmann announced that the Shuttle Bus will be introduced and route maps will be handed out at the Springs River Festival. Service will extend into Virginia Gardens and come back to the Senior and Recreation Center. As the project progresses, there are plans for a contest to name the shuttle and signs will be prepared for installation at the eleven bus stop locations. The service will be up and running on May 1, 2008. Grant Writer/Public Information Specialist Carol Foster is developing a brochure based on samples from other cities.

Curtiss Parkway - Traffic Calming

City Manager Borgmann stated that the material for the rumble strips would be ordered and installed to slow the traffic flow on Curtiss Parkway from the incoming bridge. Public Works Director Robert Williams added that Police Officer Danny Kelly is in charge of the project.

Mayor Bain requested a memorandum indicating when the project would be finished.

12C) City Council

Dade Days in Tallahassee

Councilman Best stated that his trip to Tallahassee for Dade Days was very informative and he was able to speak extensively to Senator Rudy Garcia, although he did not see Representative Marco Rubio. He said that it was a terrible environment, although the Senate approved a light rail system for Orlando in the amount of \$650 million by a vote of 22 to 16.

Financial Report

Councilman Dotson commented that Council had not received a financial report for two full quarters, which makes it difficult to know what is happening. The first quarter report was promised to Council two or three meetings ago, and even though he knows there had been a difficult situation, Council must receive the financial reports.

Finance Director Robinson stated that he is in the process of finalizing the financial statements. He explained that he would meet with Golf Director Mike Aldridge this week to review the draft of the first quarter golf financials and finalize the analysis. He said that the first quarter reports would definitely be ready for the April 28, 2008 Regular meeting. The schedule for presenting the financial reports to Council is 30-days after the close of the period and the second quarter reports should be ready for the first meeting in May.

Finance Director Robinson commented that Alicia Gonzalez had done a tremendous job, but she had not been involved in closing the month end and they are going through that process together. Once the first quarter is completed he hopes to be able to present the numbers on a timely basis.

Finance Director Robinson assured Council that the first quarter financials would be presented at the next meeting. He added that the City auditor would also present the Fiscal Year 2006/2007 financial results in the enterprise format for the Golf Course.

Internet Scam

Councilman Youngs reported that there is an internet scam concerning the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) that is designed to obtain tax identification numbers and account numbers. The I.R.S. does not initiate e-mails to individuals and anyone suspecting this scam can forward or report it to phishing@irs.gov. He warned everyone not to open the attachment or link to the e-mail because it could unleash a computer virus.

Grant Writer/Public Information Specialist

Vice Mayor Garcia complimented Grant Writer/Public Information Specialist Carol Foster for doing a wonderful job in preparing the River Cities Gazette News Bulletin in the new format. He received compliments from many people telling him that it was very informative and interesting to read.

Grant Writer/Public Information Specialist

Vice Mayor Garcia asked the City Manager to keep Council informed of the accomplishments of Grant Writer /Public Information Specialist Carol Foster, including a list of the grants she is working on. He would like to have the information sent to him via e-mail.

Little League Volunteers

Vice Mayor Garcia said that as a volunteer coach for the Little League he is aware that it is becoming more difficult every year to find volunteers and some teams need at least five coaches. He urged people who are interested in working with the children to please volunteer their services.

Giving Thanks

Vice Mayor Garcia mentioned the passing of the City Clerk's husband and asked everyone to give thanks for their spouse or significant other and to enjoy every day to the fullest. He thanks God for having his wife in his life.

Thank You

Mayor Bain thanked City Staff for the installation of the yellow traffic barriers at the High School.

Roger Madan

Mayor Bain congratulated Roger Madan who was inducted into the Miami Dade College Alumni Hall of Fame for Transportation. He said that there are many successful people who attended Miami Springs Senior High and Roger is a true alumni who supports many activities, especially the football team.

Springs River Festival

Mayor Bain hopes to see everyone at the Springs River Festival this weekend.

13. Adjourn.

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Billy Bain
Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne S. Hitaffer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

Approved as written during meeting of: 5/12/2008

Transcription assistance provided by S. Hitaffer